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CANADA
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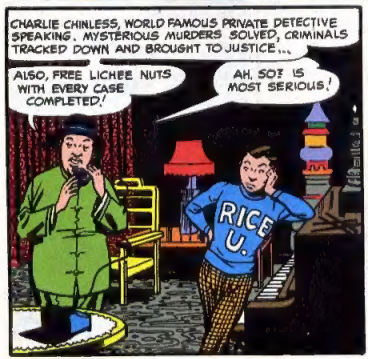
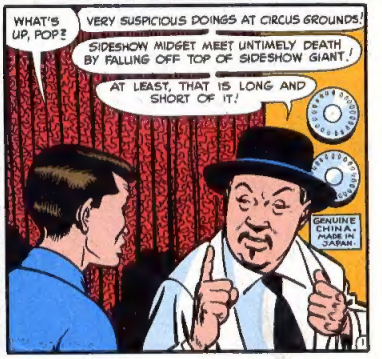
LUX
TALK
JACK DAVIS

T.V. DEPT.: EVER WATCH THOSE "MIDNIGHT MOVIES" THEY SHOW ON TELEVISION? WELL, IF YOU CAN WATCH 'EM THROUGH WITHOUT FALLING ASLEEP DURING THE SIXTEENTH COMMERCIAL...ONLY TO WAKE UP AT FOUR IN THE MORNING, STIFF AND CRAMPED, TO THE SOUND OF HISSING STATIC AND THE SIGHT OF A BLANK SCREEN...THEN YOU'VE PROBABLY SEEN ONE LIKE THIS. SO WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, AND WITHOUT THE USUAL NAUSEATING SALES PITCHES TO BREAK IT UP EVERY FIVE MINUTES, PANIC MAGAZINE PRESENTS ITS VERSION OF...

# CHARLIE CHINLESS

THIS FILM EPIC, ONE OF A SERIES, ALWAYS OPENS IN CHARLIE CHINLESS'S ORNATELY DECORATED APARTMENT, PRICELESS ORIENTAL ANTIQUES AND OTHER MEMENTOS OF THE OLD COUNTRY ARE STREWN ABOUT THE ROOM IN PELL-MELL FASHION...
THIS MAY LOOK SLOPPY TO US OCCIDENTALS, BUT THAT'S THE FASHION DOWN ON PELL-CORNER-MELL, IN CHINATOWN, WHERE CHARLIE LIVES...
NUMBER ONE SON WILL PLEASE TO ANSWER TELEPHONE!
BUT, WHY POP! IT'S NOT RINGING!
IS ANCIENT CHINESE PROVERB: WHY WAIT TILL LAST MINUTE?!!
HONORABLE DISCHARGE
THE LAUNDRY WORLD
GENUINE DRAGON LADY
CHOP STICKS PIANO
Elder


CHARLIE CHINLESS, WORLD FAMOUS PRIVATE DETECTIVE SPEAKING. MYSTERIOUS MURDERS SOLVED, CRIMINALS TRACKED DOWN AND BROUGHT TO JUSTICE...
ALSO, FREE LICHEE NUTS WITH EVERY CASE COMPLETED!
AH, SO! IS MOST SERIOUS!
RICE U.


WHAT'S UP, POP?
VERY SUSPICIOUS DOINGS AT CIRCUS GROUNDS!
SIDESHOW MIDGET MEET UNTIMELY DEATH BY FALLING OFF TOP OF SIDESHOW GIANT!
AT LEAST, THAT IS LONG AND SHORT OF IT!
GENUINE CHINA-MADE IN JAPAN

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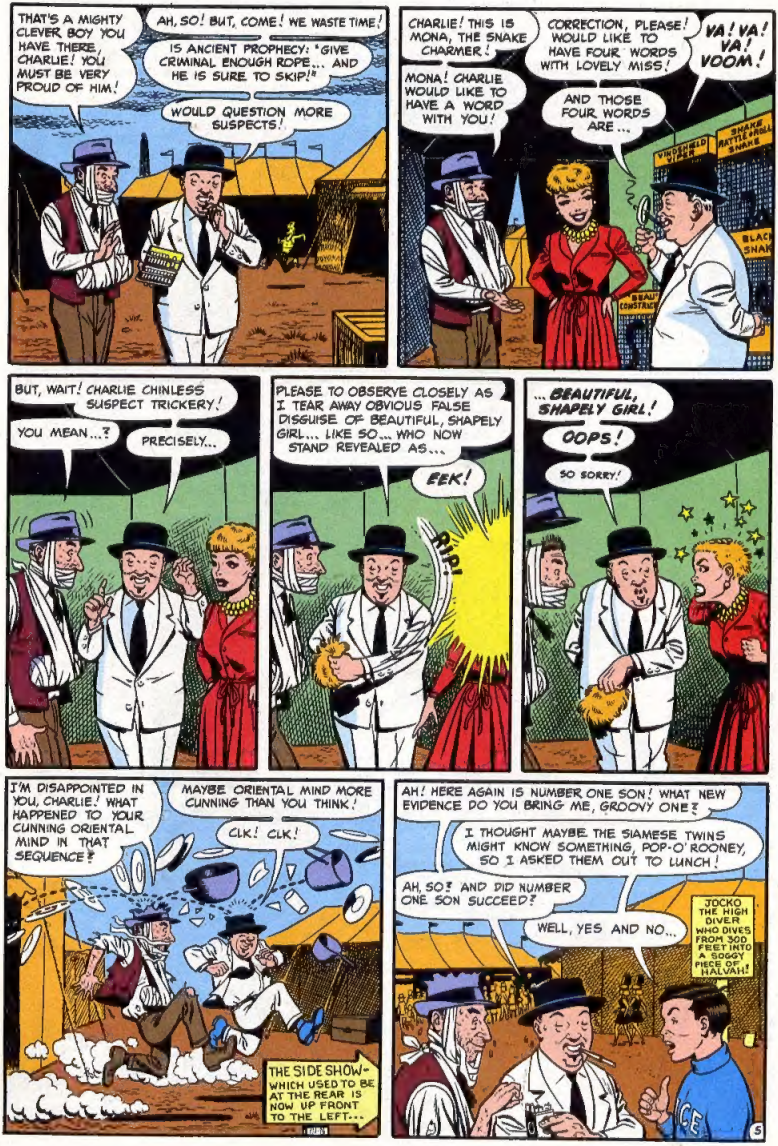
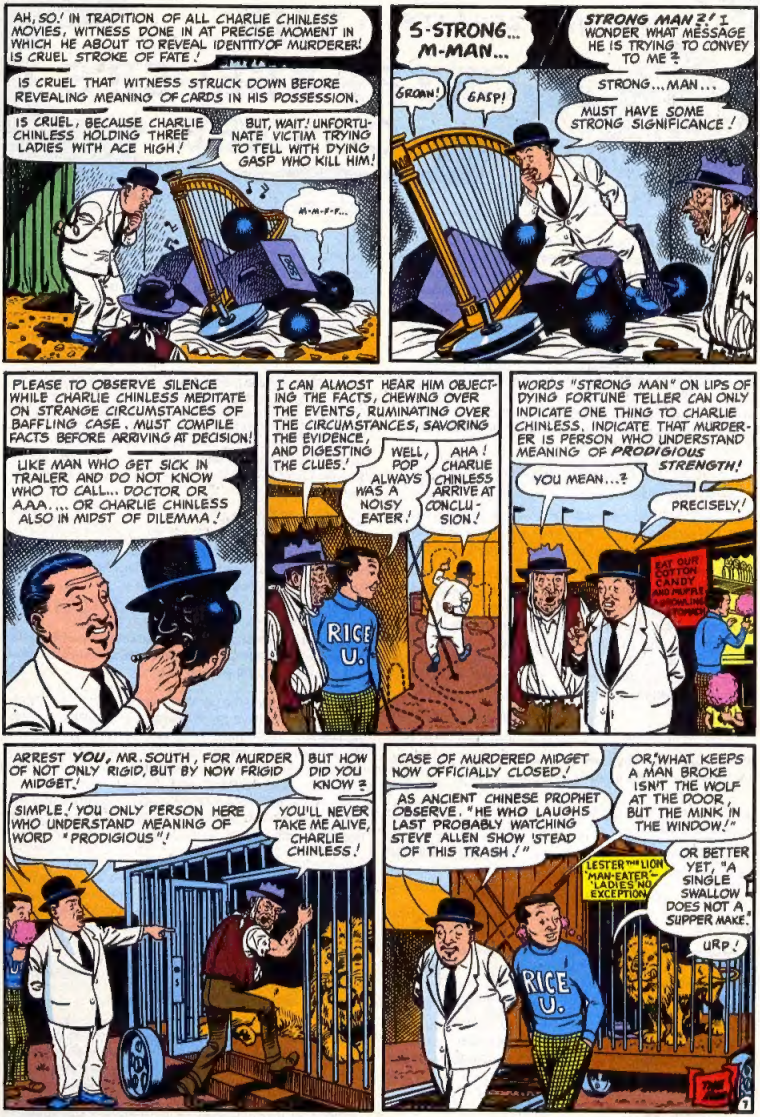
HURRY, NUMBER ONE SON. MUST GET OVER TO THE CIRCUS GROUNDS WHILE CLUES ARE STILL IN EVIDENCE!
AS ANCIENT CHINESE PHILOSOPHER SAY: "MAN CANNOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE ... EVEN THOUGH SOME SEEM TO GET BY ON JUST CRUST!"
PRIVATE PROPERTY
SO THIS IS POOR UNFORTUNATE VICTIM, NOW TO GO THROUGH DEAD MAN'S POCKETS. PERHAPS FIND CLUE! OR BETTER STILL... MONEY!
AHA! CHARLIE CHINLESS FIND EVIDENCE THAT LEAD HIM TO BELIEVE DEATH PREMEDIATED!
IT ALL HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY!
POST NO BILLS
FIND CHECK FOR SHORT BIER!
I'M MR. SOUTH, THE CIRCUS MANAGER, MR. CHINLESS! I'M CERTAINLY GLAD YOU'VE COME! WE'VE HAD SOME STRANGE DOINGS HERE AT THE CIRCUS LATELY!
AH, SO?
LAST WEEK, THE SWORD SWALLOWER WAS PUT ON A STRICT DIET AND HE'S BEEN ON PINS AND NEEDLES EVER SINCE.
AH, SO?
THEN THE PEANUT VENDOR CAME DOWN WITH A SEVERE CASE OF SHELL-SHOCK...
AH, SO?
...THE TIGHTROPE WALKER LEFT THE STRAIGHT-AND-NARROW...
AH, SO?
...THE INDIAN-RUBBER MAN GOT BOUNCED...
AH, SO?
...AND THE FAN-DANCER QUIT!
AH, FOOEY!
CHARLIE, YOU'VE GOT TO SOLVE THIS CASE. IF THIS KEEPS UP, THERE'LL BE NO CIRCUS, SOON!
SUSPICIOUS CHAIN OF EVENTS LEAD CHARLIE CHINLESS TO BELIEVE SOMEONE ATTEMPTING TO SABOTAGE CIRCUS!
IT IS TRULY WRITTEN: "MEN WHO USED TO LOSE SHIRT IN STOCK-MARKET NOW LOSE SAME IN SUPER-MARKET!"
THIS MISERABLE UNWORTHY PERSON WISH TO QUESTION HONORABLE SUSPECTS!
ALL RIGHTY! WE CAN START HERE IN THIS TENT!
ZING!
PUP TENT
JO-JO the DOG-FACED GIRL
PLEASE BARK BEFORE ENTERING!
JO-JO! THIS IS CHARLIE CHINLESS, THE WORLD FAMOUS DETECTIVE. HE'D LIKE TO HAVE A FEW WORDS WITH YOU!
CHARLIE CHINLESS NOT WISH TO TAKE UP MISS JO-JO'S VALUABLE TIME! HAVE ONLY ONE THING TO SAY TO MISS JO-JO!
AND THAT ONE THING IS...
OWOOOOOO!
R-RUFF!
2

CHARLIE CHINLESS WISH TO INFORM MR. SOUTH THAT HE IS VICTIM OF ANCIENT RUSE. MY CUNNING ORIENTAL MIND PERCEIVE THAT MISS JO-JO NOT AUTHENTIC DOG-FACED GIRL, BUT ONLY CLEVER IMITATION!
YOU MEAN...?
PRECISELY...
OBSERVE PLEASE AS I REMOVE HIDEOUS FALSE COSTUME FROM PERSON OF MISS JO-JO...LIKE SO... WHO NOW STAND REVEALED AS BEAUTIFUL, YOUNG...
EEK!
RIP
WISK
...COCKER SPANIEL!
GOOD LORD!
TURN YOUR LEASH, MUZZLE, AND CAN OF KEN-L-RATION!
IS CLEARLY WRITTEN: "MAN IS ONLY ANIMAL THAT CAN BE SKINNED MORE THAN ONCE!"... ...SIGH!...
YOU'RE FIRED!
FOR THE AIRDALE
FOR THE WATER SPANIEL
FOR THE SPITZ
FOR THE GREYHOUND
FOR THE TOY BULL
CHARLIE CHINLESS, YOU CERTAINLY ARE THAT RARE MIXTURE OF WESTERN INGENUITY AND PHILOSOPHICAL ORIENTAL!
AH, YES! BUT GIFT DOES NOT COME BY OCCIDENT! IS PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION ...LIKE OLD CHARLIE CHAN MOVIE!
BUT COME! REMAINS STILL MUCH INVESTIGATION TO BE DONE!
WOULD LIKE, PLEASE, TO QUESTION OTHER SUSPECTS IN CASE!
OKAY, CHARLIE, YOU CAN TALK TO MARGO, THE SHOW'S SINGER! BUT, FRANKLY, I DON'T THINK SHE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT!
AH, SO? PLEASE TO NOT LEAP TO HASTY CONCLUSION! IS WRITTEN: "GIRL INTERESTED IN DO-RE-MI OFTEN GO PRETTY FA!"
PUFFED RICE
PUFFED WHEAT
WANTED-HUMAN CANNONBALL MUST HAVE HELMET, BE WILLING TO TRAVEL.
MARGO, I SUPPOSE YOU RECOGNIZE CHARLIE CHINLESS, THE FAMOUS DETECTIVE!
CAN'T SAY THAT I DO! ALL DETECTIVES LOOK ALIKE TO ME!
PERHAPS MISS MARGO CAN CLEAR UP VITAL QUESTION PLAGUING POOR, MISERABLE SELF...
VITAL QUESTION BEING...
IS IT TRUE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT DIXIE?
BALLANTINE
3 RING CIRCUS

BUT, WAIT! CHARLIE CHINLESS DETECT SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THIS WOMAN!
YOU MEAN...?
PRECISELY...
~NOTICE~
LOST: A LARGE, HEAVY BELT... THE THIN MAN
PLEASE TO WATCH CLOSELY AS I REMOVE BEAUTIFUL FALSE COSTUME OF LOVELY MARGO... LIKE SO... WHO STAND REVEALED AS NONE OTHER THAN...
EEK!
~NOTICE~ PICADILLY CIRCUS COMING NEXT WEEK!
POP
WISK
...NUMBER ONE SON!
GOOD LORD!
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO WAIT IN THE RICKSHAW!
I KNOW, POP, BUT I WANTED TO HELP SOLVE THIS CAPER! MAN, YOU NEVER LET ME HAVE ANY FUN!
IS TRULY WRITTEN: "WHEN THERE IS BEAUTIFUL TIE BETWEEN FATHER AND SON... IS USUALLY WORN BY SON!"
LISTEN POP-O'ROONEY! DON'T BE A CUBE! I MEAN, I DIG THIS PRIVATE-EYE KICK LIKE MAD!
JUMBO THE ONLY ELEPHANT WITH A PAIR OF TRUNKS
"JUMBO" THE ELEPHANT'S TRUNK
IS ANCIENT CHINESE PROVERB: "IF YOUNG SON WISH TO LEARN TO DRIVE FAMILY CAR, FATHER SHOULD NOT STAND IN WAY."
CRAZY, POP-O'ROONEY! LISTEN, I'VE ALREADY BEEN SWINGIN' ON THIS CAPER. I DUG UP SOME REAL FAR-OUT INFO-ROONEY!
YOU'LL FLIP WHEN I LAY IT ON!
I DUG THIS WEIRD CAT SNEAKING 'ROUND ONE OF THESE TENTS!
A VERY SUSPICIOUS TYPE, LIKE! SO I TRAILED HIM TO SEE WHAT HE WAS PUTTIN' DOWN!
AH, SO? CASE TAKE UNEXPECTED TURN!
POW
HE'S RIGHT IN THIS TENT, POP! WHEN I PEEPED IN, HE WAS WIPING THE FINGERPRINTS OFF A KNIFE, A MACHINE-GUN, AND A BOW-AND-ARROW...
AH, SO? CASE TAKE UNEXPECTED TURN!
BIG AERIAL SHOW... RADIO, TV, ALL KINDS—, TENTS.
YEAH! TURNS OUT THIS JOKER IS THE CIRCUS SHARPSHOOTER!
AH, SO? CHARLIE CHINLESS TAKE UNEXPECTED TURN!
AS CONFUCIOUS SAY: "ONE PUNCTURE WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS!"
FLIP
4


THAT'S A MIGHTY CLEVER BOY YOU HAVE THERE, CHARLIE! YOU MUST BE VERY PROUD OF HIM!
AH, SO! BUT, COME! WE WASTE TIME!
IS ANCIENT PROPHECY: "GIVE CRIMINAL ENOUGH ROPE... AND HE IS SURE TO SKIP!"
WOULD QUESTION MORE SUSPECTS!
CHARLIE! THIS IS MONA, THE SNAKE CHARMER!
CORRECTION, PLEASE! WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FOUR WORDS WITH LOVELY MISS!
VA! VA! VA! VOOM!
MONA! CHARLIE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU!
AND THOSE FOUR WORDS ARE...
VIRGIN-BELT TIGER
SNAKE-RATTLE-HIPPED SNAKE
BEAU CONSTRICTOR
BLACK SNAK
BUT, WAIT! CHARLIE CHINLESS SUSPECT TRICKERY!
YOU MEAN...?
PRECISELY...
PLEASE TO OBSERVE CLOSELY AS I TEAR AWAY OBVIOUS FALSE DISGUISE OF BEAUTIFUL, SHAPELY GIRL... LIKE SO... WHO NOW STAND REVEALED AS...
EEK!
RIP!
...BEAUTIFUL, SHAPELY GIRL!
OOPS!
SO SORRY!
I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, CHARLIE! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR CUNNING ORIENTAL MIND IN THAT SEQUENCE?
MAYBE ORIENTAL MIND MORE CUNNING THAN YOU THINK!
CLK! CLK!
THE SIDE SHOW- WHICH USED TO BE AT THE REAR IS NOW UP FRONT TO THE LEFT...
AH! HERE AGAIN IS NUMBER ONE SON! WHAT NEW EVIDENCE DO YOU BRING ME, GROOVY ONE?
I THOUGHT MAYBE THE SIAMESE TWINS MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING, POP-O'ROONEY, SO I ASKED THEM OUT TO LUNCH!
AH, SO? AND DID NUMBER ONE SON SUCCEED?
WELL, YES AND NO...
JOCKO THE HIGH DIVER WHO DIVES FROM 300 FEET INTO A SOGGY PIECE OF HALVAH!
ICE
5

CASE MOST PERPLEXING! ALMOST AS BAFFLING AS MYSTERY I SOLVED LAST WEEK*, TITLED "WHO THREW POTATO LATKA IN MRS. SMIRNOFF'S VODKA?"
WHO DID?
A MR. SHWEPPES!
RICE U.
*SAME TIME... SAME CHANNEL... SAME KIND DRIVEL.
COME! IS TIME TO QUESTION MORE SUSPECTS. EVIDENCE MOUNTING. AS IN OLD PHILOSOPHY: "WHEN ALL AUTOS IN WORLD ARE PLACED END TO END, IS PROBABLY SUNDAY AFTERNOON!" SO...
...WOULD LIKE TO INTERROGATE PERSON NEAREST SCENE OF CRIME!
THAT WOULD BE AHBED, THE FORTUNE TELLER IN HERE...
ZOW
POP
FIZ
BANG
'AHBED' THE FORTUNE TELLER
THE SAME AHBED THAT HAS A TELLER OF FORTUNES AT THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK!
AHBED, THIS IS CHARLIE CHINLESS, THE FAMOUS DETECTIVE. PERHAPS YOU'VE HEARD OF HIM!
THE NAME DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO ME, BUT THE FEZ IS FAMILIAR!
PERHAPS AHBED CAN DO CHARLIE CHINLESS GREAT SERVICE, AS IS TRULY WRITTEN: "ONE GOOD TURN GET MOST OF BLANKET!"
HONORABLE AHBED, BLESSED WITH POWER TO FORESEE FUTURE AND GAZE INTO PAST, COULD HELP MISERABLE SELFE SOLVE PUZZLE OF, BY NOW, RIGID MIDGET!
THE POWERS OF THE SPIRIT WORLD ARE INFINITE, MR. CHINLESS. LET ME SEE WHAT MESSAGE THE CARDS I DEAL HOLD FOR YOU.
JUST TO MAKE INTERESTING, I SUGGEST WE PLAY PENNY A POINT ON SIDE!
MINDS READ! PALMS READ! PSALMS READ! -ALSO- NOTARY PUBLIC!
AH, YES! ALREADY MESSAGE FROM CARDS!
NO! NO! YOU'RE READING IT WRONG!
MESSAGE SAY: "FULL HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST SELF CANNOT STAND UP AGAINST FOUR-OF-A-KIND!"
THE CARDS REVEAL THE NAME OF THE EVIL-DOER!
THE MURDERER'S NAME IS...
ACME TURKEY BAKERY
KLOWNG??...KLOWNG!...
KLOWNG!
I DON'T KNOW ANYONE BY THE NAME OF KLOWNG!
6


AH, SO.' IN TRADITION OF ALL CHARLIE CHINLESS MOVIES, WITNESS DONE IN AT PRECISE MOMENT IN WHICH HE ABOUT TO REVEAL IDENTITY OF MURDERER! IS CRUEL STROKE OF FATE.!
IS CRUEL THAT WITNESS STRUCK DOWN BEFORE REVEALING MEANING OF CARDS IN HIS POSSESSION.
IS CRUEL, BECAUSE CHARLIE CHINLESS HOLDING THREE LADIES WITH ACE HIGH.!
BUT, WAIT.! UNFORTUNATE VICTIM TRYING TO TELL WITH DYING GASP WHO KILL HIM!
M-M-F-F...
S-STRONG... M-MAN...
GROAN!
GASP!
STRONG MAN ?! I WONDER WHAT MESSAGE HE IS TRYING TO CONVEY TO ME ?
STRONG...MAN...
MUST HAVE SOME STRONG SIGNIFICANCE!
PLEASE TO OBSERVE SILENCE WHILE CHARLIE CHINLESS MEDITATE ON STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES OF BAFFLING CASE. MUST COMPILE FACTS BEFORE ARRIVING AT DECISION!
LIKE MAN WHO GET SICK IN TRAILER AND DO NOT KNOW WHO TO CALL... DOCTOR OR A.A.A.... OR CHARLIE CHINLESS ALSO IN MIDST OF DILEMMA!
I CAN ALMOST HEAR HIM OBJECTING THE FACTS, CHEWING OVER THE EVENTS, RUMINATING OVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, SAVORING THE EVIDENCE AND DIGESTING THE CLUES.!
WELL, POP ALWAYS WAS A NOISY EATER!
AHA! CHARLIE CHINLESS ARRIVE AT CONCLUSION!
RICE U.
WORDS "STRONG MAN" ON LIPS OF DYING FORTUNE TELLER CAN ONLY INDICATE ONE THING TO CHARLIE CHINLESS, INDICATE THAT MURDERER IS PERSON WHO UNDERSTAND MEANING OF PRODIGIOUS STRENGTH!
YOU MEAN...?
PRECISELY.!
EAT OUR COTTON CANDY AND PUFFED POPCORN
ARREST YOU, MR. SOUTH, FOR MURDER OF NOT ONLY RIGID, BUT BY NOW FRIGID MIDGET.!
BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW ?
SIMPLE.! YOU ONLY PERSON HERE WHO UNDERSTAND MEANING OF WORD "PRODIGIOUS".!
YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME ALIVE, CHARLIE CHINLESS.!
CASE OF MURDERED MIDGET NOW OFFICIALLY CLOSED.!
AS ANCIENT CHINESE PROPHET OBSERVE. "HE WHO LAUGHS LAST PROBABLY WATCHING STEVE ALLEN SHOW 'STEAD OF THIS TRASH.!"
OR, "WHAT KEEPS A MAN BROKE ISN'T THE WOLF AT THE DOOR, BUT THE MINK IN THE WINDOW.!"
LESTER™ LION MAN-EATER - LADIES NO EXCEPTION
OR BETTER YET, "A SINGLE SWALLOW DOES NOT A SUPPER MAKE."
URP!
RICE U.

**As PANIC continues its survey of the foibles and follies of some sections of our daily newspapers, we come to the Cozy Kitchen Home Recipe column, a nausea-provoking swatch of indigestible prose that is found lurking on the Woman's Page. Here, loveable Aunt Florrie Fudge gives her readers quick, economical recipes and menus, guaranteed, so she says, "to tease and please the jaded palate and set Dad to hollering for more." Trouble is, when anybody is fool enough to actually *work up* the recipe, the results are horrendous enough to produce ulcers in a glass of milk.**

# COZY KITCHEN HOME RECIPES

*by Florrie Fudge*

Autumn days are with us again and now is the time to plan sensible Autumn meals that will energize those playful youngsters of yours and give poor old exhausted, beat-down, wilted, wage-earning Dad a new lease on what life you've left him after he's paid out for that Marmozet-Mink coat you arm-twisted him into buying for you last week.

So with happy hearts and heads held high, let's trip over the toys and into the kitchen and start making an even happier home for the family with our Harvest Home Meatball Surprise dinner.

First the menu: We open with Maple Startle, a tasty appetizer with maple syrup poured over anchovies, garnished with marshmallows. Next, a continental type soup: Root beer and matzoh balls, liberally sprinkled with peanut brittle croutons. Then our entree, which is a taste-joy! Mackerel sauteed in chocolate sauce, with dill pickles and apple butter. Then we come to our main dish, the Harvest Home Meatball Surprise. I found the recipe in an old Dutch farm-house where it had lain hidden twixt the sachet-scented pages of an old copy of Nick Carter's Daring Do, or the Wrought Iron Octopus, lovingly inserted there by my grandmother, many years ago. Since the standards (price wise) of Grandma's day and today are slightly different, where she calls for six pounds of creamy fresh butter, in the interests of present day economy I have substituted six pounds of *unsweetened* butter, otherwise I give you this precious old recipe just as it was passed on to me by my grandmother Scrapple.

## HARVEST HOME MEATBALL SURPRISE

1 quart Worcestershire sauce
1 dozen plover's eggs
a pepper corn
7 oz. ground Elk meat
1 sprig of parsley
1 sprig mistletoe
1 caper (cut)
35 pounds of diced rutabagas

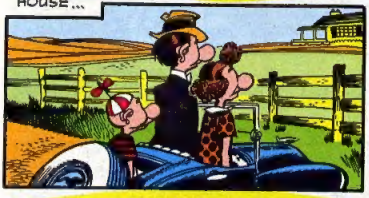
Boil a gallon of distilled rain water on the stove for six hours until only a half inch of liquid remains at bottom of pot. Add, slowly, the entire contents of a bottle of cream soda, then fold in diced rutabagas stirring vigorously until they begin to take on a greenish tinge. Remove from fire immediately and allow to simmer for a day. As fragrant crust begins to form on top, fold in mistletoe making sure not to disturb chow mein noodles. Place in moderate oven (23,000 degrees centigrade) and baste occasionally. If skin browns slowly, *lambaste.*

Timing is important so have your sauce prepared in advance so as to be ready to serve with main dish. For sauce blend two pound chunk of limburger cheese into a quart of maraschino cherries, add sprinkling of chopped goose liver and peanut butter. Add to main dish, pour over this a quart of 50 year old California Brandy, set the whole furshlugginer mess afire, then surprise your family by taking them out to dinner at the Harvest Home Meatball, an eatery of extinction, 39 Upset Avenue, Tums, New Jersey.

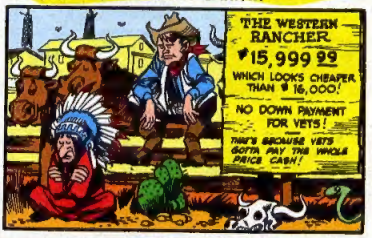
*THE AMERICAN SCENE DEPT.:* EVERY SUNDAY, A HUGE SEGMENT OF THE AMERICAN POPULATION TAKES A DISSATISFIED, DISGUSTED LOOK AROUND ITS HUMBLE ABODE, PACKS INTO THE FAMILY CAR, AND NOSES OUT ONTO HIGHWAYS JAMMED WITH NEVER-ENDING LINES OF TRAFFIC. SO LET'S FOLLOW A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF THIS SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION, MR. AND MRS. JOHN Q. PUBLIC AND FAMILY, AS THEY JOIN IN ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR OF FREE WEEK-END PASTIMES...

# HOUSE HUNTING!

THERE ARE MANY VARIED TYPES AND STYLES OF HOUSES BEING ERECTED BY IMAGINATIVE BUILDERS ALL OVER AMERICA TODAY. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE'S THE 'RANCH STYLE' HOUSE... INSPIRED BY THE 'ALL ON ONE FLOOR' EDIFICES THAT DOT OUR WESTERN RANGES. HERE WE SEE THE JOHN Q. PUBLICS ABOUT TO INSPECT A 'RANCH STYLE' HOUSE...

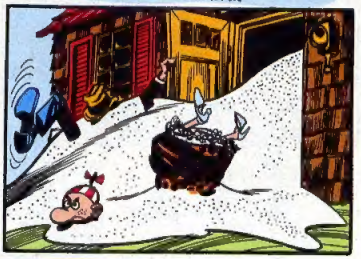


YOU CAN TELL A 'RANCH STYLE' HOUSE BY ITS SHAPE ...AND THE CORRAL FENCE SURROUNDING IT. BUT MAINLY, YOU CAN TELL IT BY THE TEXAS CATTLE GRAZING ON THE FRONT LAWN...

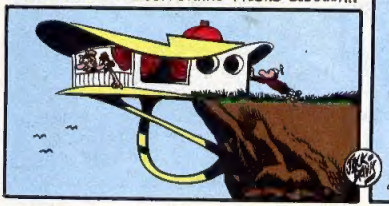

THE WESTERN RANCHER
$15,999.99
WHICH LOOKS CHEAPER THAN $16,000!
NO DOWN PAYMENT FOR VETS!
THAT'S BECAUSE VETS GOTTA PAY THE WHOLE PRICE CASH!

NEXT, WE HAVE THE 'NEW ENGLAND SALT BOX'! THIS TYPE HOUSE IS REMINISCENT OF THE SIMPLE-SHAPED COLONIAL STRUCTURES THAT ARE PREVALENT HERE IN NEW ENGLAND. HERE WE SEE THE JOHN Q. PUBLICS ABOUT TO DISCOVER WHY IT'S CALLED 'NEW ENGLAND SALT BOX'...

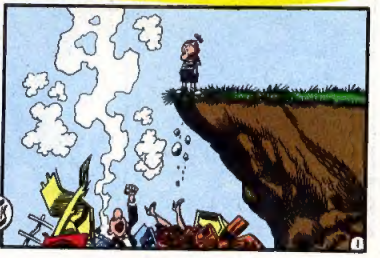
IT'S CALLED A 'NEW ENGLAND SALT BOX' MAINLY BECAUSE IT'S FILLED WITH SALT...



THE 'AMERICAN MODERN' IS FAST BECOMING A COMMON SIGHT IN SUBURBAN AREAS. ITS SWEEPING, SEVERE LINES USUALLY EXTEND OUT OVER A HILLSIDE, RESTING UPON MODERN PYLONS. THIS IS AN ENGINEERING MARVEL TO THE JOHN Q. PUBLICS. THEY EXAMINE THE SUPPORTING PYLONS CLOSELY...



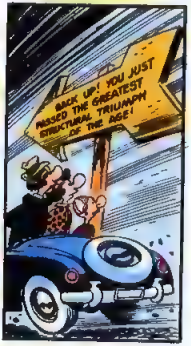
IN FACT, TOO CLOSELY! ONE GIVES WAY AND THE WHOLE MESS COLLAPSES...



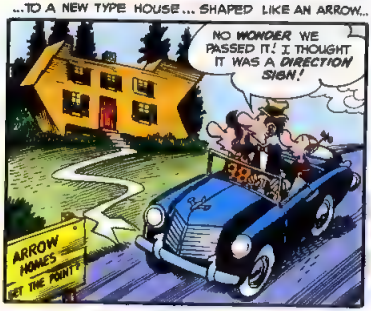
WHEN HOUSE HUNTING, THE FIRST PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED IS FINDING NEW HOUSES. THIS IS MADE SIMPLE FOR MR. AND MRS. JOHN Q. PUBLIC. SIGNS ARE ERECTED ALL OVER WHICH GIVE DIRECTIONS TO WHERE THEY'RE BUILDING. THE SIGN IS USUALLY IN THE FORM OF AN ARROW... LIKE THIS ONE...

HERE WE SEE MR. AND MRS. JOHN Q. PUBLIC AS THEY FOLLOW THE ARROWS...

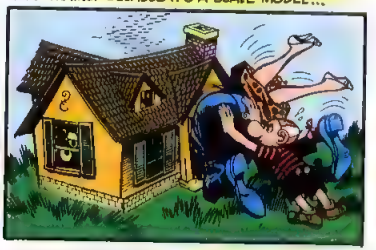
...AND FOLLOW THE ARROWS...



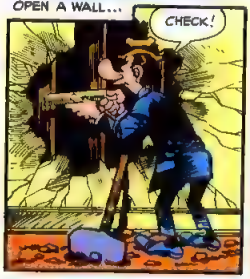

...TO A NEW TYPE HOUSE... SHAPED LIKE AN ARROW...



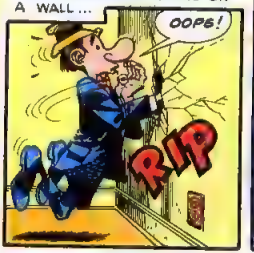

IT IS IMPORTANT, WHEN HOUSE HUNTING, THAT YOU KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN YOU INSPECT THE MODEL HOUSE. HERE WE SEE MR. AND MRS. JOHN Q. PUBLIC ENTERING A MODEL HOUSE. THEY'RE HAVING A TOUGH TIME MAINLY BECAUSE IT'S A SCALE MODEL...



CONSTRUCTION IS AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION. STUDS (THE UPRIGHT TIMBERS WITHIN THE WALLS) SHOULD BE NO MORE THAN 16 INCHES APART. HERE WE SEE MR. PUBLIC FINDING OUT IF THE STUDS ARE 10 INCHES APART. TO DO THIS, HE SIMPLY BREAKS OPEN A WALL...

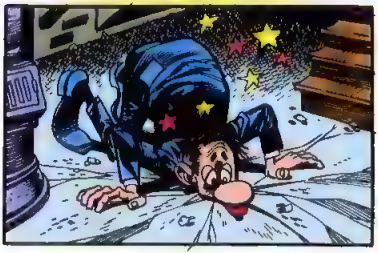



WALL CONSTRUCTION IS IMPORTANT. PLASTER WALLS ARE PREFERRED. LATELY, COMPOSITION BOARD HAS COME INTO WIDE USE. PAINT OR WALL-PAPER IS THEN APPLIED OVER THESE. YOU CAN TELL WHETHER A WALL IS MADE OF PLASTER OR COMPOSITION BOARD BY RAPPING ON IT. HERE WE SEE MR. PUBLIC RAPPING ON A WALL...

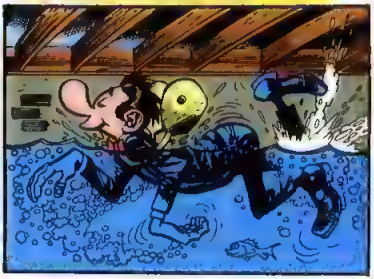



SEEMS THIS BUILDER USED NEITHER ONE! HE JUST PUT WALL-PAPER OVER THE STUDS! OH, WELL, MR. PUBLIC WANTED TO EXAMINE THE CELLAR ANYWAY...

A DRY CELLAR IS A MUST FOR ANY WELL-CONSTRUCTED HOUSE. IF THE WATER TABLE IN THE AREA IS HIGH, THE CELLAR COULD FILL UP WITH WATER UNLESS THE FOUNDATION WALLS ARE WATER-TIGHT. HERE WE SEE MR. PUBLIC EXAMINING THE CRACKS HE'S MADE IN THE CEMENT FLOOR...

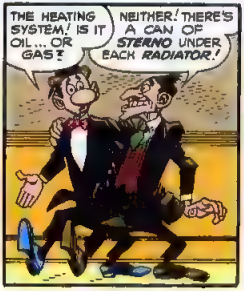


AND HERE WE SEE HIM SWIMMING AROUND IN THE WATER THAT'S GUSHED IN THROUGH THE CRACKS HE'S MADE IN THE CEMENT FLOOR. LUCKY THING HE BROUGHT HIS WATER-WINGS!



CLOSET SPACE IS ESSENTIAL CONSIDERING A NEW HOUSE. HERE WE SEE MRS. PUBLIC MARVELING AT THE LARGE STEP-IN CLOSET. BUT THE SELLING AGENT PUTS HER STRAIGHT...

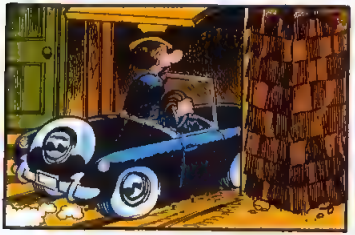
YOU'LL FIND A SELLING AGENT PRESENT AT EACH MODEL HOME YOU INSPECT. HE'S THERE TO ANSWER ANY TECHNICAL QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE. MR. PUBLIC ALWAYS TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THIS...



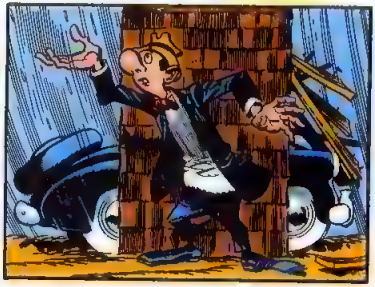

MOST HOUSES TODAY FEATURE MORE THAN ONE BATH. MRS. PUBLIC NOTICED THAT THIS HOUSE ADVERTIZED ONE AND A HALF BATHS! SHE ASKS TO SEE THEM...

YOU MUST ALWAYS EXAMINE THE ADVERTIZED APPLIANCES. DISH WASHERS, CLOTHES WASHERS, CLOTHES DRYERS, ETC., ARE ALL DESIRABLE, BUT MAKE SURE WHAT YOU'RE GETTING... AS MRS. PUBLIC IS DOING HERE...

ALTHOUGH MANY HOUSES TODAY INCLUDE A SIMPLE CARPORT, THERE IS A DISADVANTAGE TO THIS. THE FAMILY CAR IS EXPOSED TO THE ELEMENTS. AN ENCLOSED GARAGE IS THEREFORE PREFERRED. HERE WE SEE MR. JOHN Q. PUBLIC TRYING OUT THE MODEL GARAGE BY DRIVING HIS CAR RIGHT IN...

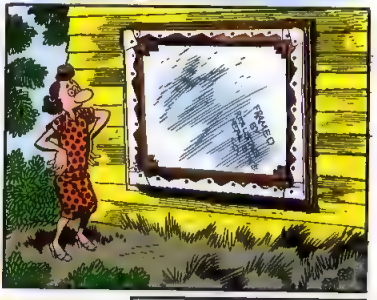


...AND DISCOVERING THAT THIS GARAGE IS NO BETTER THAN A CARPORT, MAINLY BECAUSE IT'S TOO SHORT FOR THE CAR...

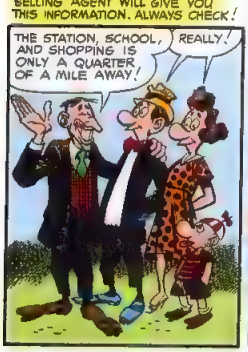


ALWAYS EXAMINE THE MODEL HOUSE CAREFULLY, BOTH INSIDE AND OUT. HERE WE SEE MRS. JOHN. Q. PUBLIC EXAMINING THE PICTURE-WINDOW FROM THE INSIDE...

...AND DISCOVERING, FROM THE OUTSIDE, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT IS... A PICTURE!

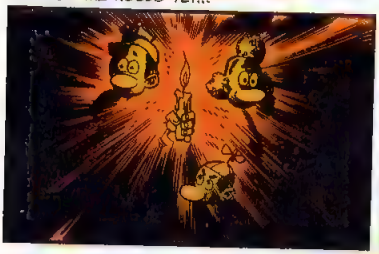



A PROXIMITY TO SHOPPING, THE STATION, AND SCHOOLS IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE NEW HOME. THE SELLING AGENT WILL GIVE YOU THIS INFORMATION. ALWAYS CHECK!

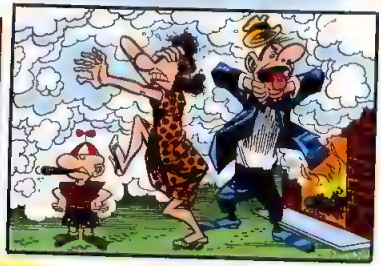



ALWAYS CHECK THE SELLING AGENT'S STORY, THAT IS... AS THE PUBLICS HAVE JUST DONE...

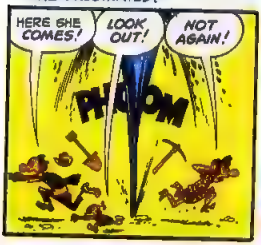
HOW THE UTILITIES OF A HOUSE ARE TO BE RUN IS IMPORTANT IN CONSIDERING ITS PURCHASE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE PUBLICS HAVE FRIENDS WHO BOUGHT AN ALL-ELECTRIC HOUSE. THE REFRIGERATOR WAS ELECTRIC. YEP, YOU GUESSED IT. WHEN THEY MOVED IN, THEY HAD QUITE A TIME OF IT. SEEMS THE ELECTRIC COMPANY HADN'T COME INTO THAT NECK OF THE WOODS YET...



A WOOD-BURNING FIREPLACE IS A POPULAR FEATURE OF MANY NEW HOMES TODAY. THE PUBLICS ALWAYS CHECK WOOD-BURNING FIREPLACES. SEEMS THESE SAME FRIENDS OF THEIRS HAD ONE. WHEN THEY LIT IT TO KEEP WARM, THEY ALMOST SUFFOCATED FROM THE SMOKE! NO CHIMNEY!



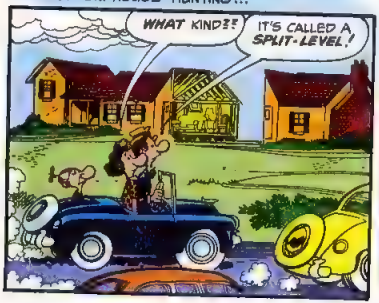
WATER TAXES ARE A BIG ITEM IN BUDGETING FOR A NEW HOUSE. SOMETIMES, TO CUT EXPENSES, DRILLING A WELL FOR LAWN-WATERING IS ADVISABLE. THE PUBLICS FRIENDS RAN INTO TROUBLE HERE TOO. THEIR HOUSE WAS IN TEXAS, AND EVERY TIME THEY DRILLED FOR WATER, THEY WERE FRUSTRATED!



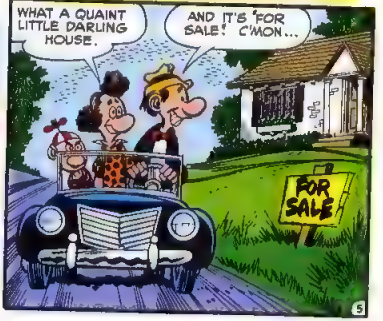

SEEMS, INSTEAD OF WATER, THEY JUST KEPT HITTING COMMON OLD **OIL!**

SO MR. PUBLIC ALWAYS CHECKS THE WATER SITUATION WITH THE SELLING AGENT...

AND SO, AS THE SUN CREEPS SLOWLY, LIKE THE TRAFFIC BELOW, ACROSS THE SUNDAY SKY, MR. AND MRS. JOHN Q. PUBLIC MOVE FROM MODEL TO MODEL... HOUSE HUNTING...




FINALLY, WORKING HOMEWARD, A "FOR SALE" SIGN CATCHES THEIR TIRED DISILLUSIONED EYES...



WILDLY, THE PUBLIC FAMILY RUSH INTO THE HOUSE, SCARCELY BELIEVING THEIR EYES...
SOLID PLASTER WALLS!
REAL DISHWASHER!
WATER-TIGHT FOUNDATION! REAL STEEL BEAM SUPPORTS!
OIL HEAT! A REAL WASHING MACHINE! A REAL CLOTHES DRIER!
A REAL PICTURE WINDOW!
LOOKIT THAT LARGE GARAGE!
A REAL WOOD-BURNING FIRE-PLACE :: WITH A CHIMNEY!
HUGE CLOSETS!
THIS PLACE IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!
WHERE'S THE AGENT?
YOU CAN'T BUY THIS PLACE, POP!
WHY CAN'T I? FOR EIGHTEEN SUN-DAYS NOW, I BEEN KNOCKING MYSELF OUT HOUSE-HUNTING! NOW, WHEN I FINALLY FIND A PLACE, YOU SAY I CAN'T BUY IT! WHY CAN'T I BUY IT? WHY!
YOU CAN'T BUY IT, POP... BECAUSE YOU ALREADY OWN IT!
THIS IS OUR HOUSE, POP!
WELL, I'LL BE FARBLUNJITTA!
THE END
6

**SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP DEPT:** SOME TIME AGO, ACTION-ADVENTURE FANS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY WERE SHOCKED TO SEE A NEW STRIP APPEAR IN THE COMIC PAGES OF THEIR DAILY PAPERS. THIS NEW STRIP WASN'T DEVOTED TO CRIME, AND IT WASN'T DEVOTED TO ADVENTURE OR INTRIGUE. IT WAS DEVOTED TO DEVOTION. YES, PROVING THE OLD ADAGE THAT LOVE WILL FIND ITS WAY, LOVE FOUND ITS WAY INTO THE DAILY AND SUNDAY COMICS. SOAP OPERA CAME TO NEWSPRINT. THE AUTHOR OF THIS STRIP OBVIOUSLY HATES WOMEN, BECAUSE HE SURE MAKES THEM SUFFER! AND THE MORE HIS HEROINES SUFFER, THE MORE POPULAR HIS STRIP GETS! PANIC MAGAZINE NOW PRESENTS ITS OWN VERSION OF THE 'IT'S BETTER TO SHOW LOVE THAT LOST THAN NEVER TO HAVE SOLD A SYNDICATED STRIP AT ALL "ROUTINE" CALLED...

# THE HEARTACHES of JOLIET'S GROANS!

by STAN Lee Elder

FIRST, THE CHARACTERS IN THIS SUB-STRIP! THIS IS JOLIET. SHE'S PRETTY, BUT SHE'S MISERABLE. ACTUALLY, SHE'S PRETTY MISERABLE. SHE COULD GET ANY MAN SHE PLEASES, BUT SO FAR SHE HASN'T PLEASED ANY!

SAY! HOW COME THEY'RE DELIVERING SOFT COAL THIS TIME, EVA?

THIS IS EVA, JOLIET'S YOUNG SIS-TER. EVA MAKES MARYLIN MONROE LOOK LIKE ZAZU PITTS. SHE'S ALWAYS FALLING IN LOVE AND GETTING INTO PROBLEMS. BUT JOLIET IS ALWAYS GETTING HER OUT OF THEM. JOLIET FIGURES IF ***SHE*** CAN'T GET INTO PROBLEMS, WHY SHOULD EVA.

I DON'T KNOW, JOLIE! POP, DID YOU ORDER SOFT COAL THIS TIME?

AND THIS IS POP, WHOM BOTH GIRLS LOVE LIKE THEIR FATHER, MAINLY BECAUSE HE IS! EVERYBODY IN THIS STRIP IS MISERABLE AND POP IS NO EXCEPTION. AFTER ALL HE HAS TO LIVE WITH THESE TWO DAMES...

THAT'S RIGHT, EVA! I ORDERED SOFT COAL THIS TIME 'CAUSE I FOUND OUT THE CAT LIKES TO SLEEP IN THE COAL BIN!

MAY I NEVER BE SO HUMBLE THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE THIS!

JOLIE! THIS IS LEWIS L. JOHN, THE BOY WHO JUST DELIVERED THE COAL! I'M MAD ABOUT HIM. YOU MIGHT CALL IT LOVE AT FIRST ANTHRACITE!

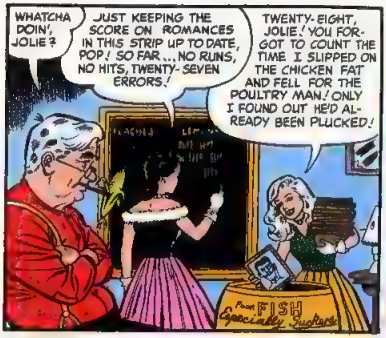
BUT, EVA! HE DOESN'T SOOT YOU! HAS HE ASHED YOU TO MARRY HIM?

WHAT!? ME GET MARRIED?! I'D CHUTE MYSELF FIRST! BESIDES, I'M A MINER!

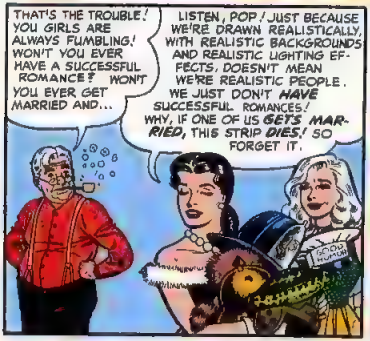
SEE, EVA? WHAT DID I TELL YOU? THE BOY IS A CLINKER! YOU SHOULD BE GRATE-FULL I FURNACED YOU WITH THE EVIDENCE!

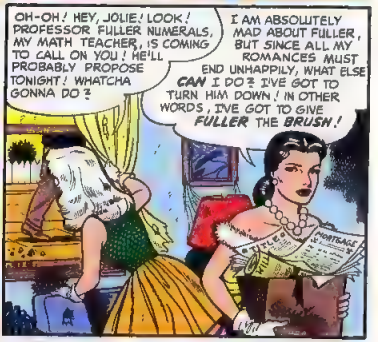
GET OUT! GET OUT AND NEVER DARKEN MY CELLAR WINDOW AGAIN!

3 MORE YEARS TO GO!


WHATCHA DOIN', JOLIE?
JUST KEEPING THE SCORE ON ROMANCES IN THIS STRIP UP TO DATE, POP! SO FAR... NO RUNS, NO HITS, TWENTY-SEVEN ERRORS!
TWENTY-EIGHT, JOLIE! YOU FORGOT TO COUNT THE TIME I SLIPPED ON THE CHICKEN FAT AND FELL FOR THE POULTRY MAN! ONLY I FOUND OUT HE'D ALREADY BEEN PLUCKED!
From FISH Specially Suckers

HOLD ON NOW, EVA! IF YOU'RE GOING TO COUNT THAT, THEN I'M GOING TO COUNT THE TIME WHEN THAT HANDSOME HALFBACK MADE A PASS AT ME IN THE STADIUM!
WELL, WHY NOT? YOU WERE PLAYING END ON HIS FOOTBALL TEAM AT THE TIME! BESIDES, YOU FUMBLED!


THAT'S THE TROUBLE! YOU GIRLS ARE ALWAYS FUMBLING! WON'T YOU EVER HAVE A SUCCESSFUL ROMANCE? WON'T YOU EVER GET MARRIED AND...
LISTEN, POP! JUST BECAUSE WE'RE DRAWN REALISTICALLY, WITH REALISTIC BACKGROUNDS AND REALISTIC LIGHTING EFFECTS, DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE REALISTIC PEOPLE. WE JUST DON'T HAVE SUCCESSFUL ROMANCES! WHY, IF ONE OF US GETS MARRIED, THIS STRIP DIES! SO FORGET IT.
SOON


OH-OH! HEY, JOLIE! LOOK! PROFESSOR FULLER NUMERALS, MY MATH TEACHER, IS COMING TO CALL ON YOU! HE'LL PROBABLY PROPOSE TONIGHT! WHATCHA GONNA DO?
I AM ABSOLUTELY MAD ABOUT FULLER, BUT SINCE ALL MY ROMANCES MUST END UNHAPPILY, WHAT ELSE CAN I DO? I'VE GOT TO TURN HIM DOWN! IN OTHER WORDS, I'VE GOT TO GIVE FULLER THE BRUSH!
MORTGAGE

JOLIE! I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU! I WOULD LIKE YOUR HAND IN MARRIAGE!
JUST MY HAND?! WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF ME?

I NEED YOU, JOLIE! YOUR LOVE... YOUR UNDERSTANDING... YOUR COMPANIONSHIP... YOU'RE DEDUCTIBLE!
ALL RIGHT, FULLER! ON ONE CONDITION!
LAUNDRY CHUTE

I'LL MARRY YOU IF YOU GIVE EVA A PASSING MARK IN MATH!
I GUESS THIS MEANS GOOD-BYE, THEN, JULIE, I COULDN'T PASS EVA IN TRAFFIC! THE KID IS JUST TOO STUPID! SEE YOU AROUND!
HOW TO WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE
DALE CARNEGIE

WELL, HE'S GONE! CHALK UP NUMBER TWENTY-EIGHT, EVA!
TWENTY-NINE! I INSIST WE COUNT THE TIME THE BUTCHER GAVE ME THE COLD SHOULDER!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN WE HAVE TO COUNT THE TIME THE FERRY BOAT CAPTAIN GAVE ME THE SLIP!
STOP IT! STOP IT ALREADY! YOU GIRLS MAKE ME SICK!
EVA! DID YOU HEAR? POP IS SICK! YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?
YOU'RE THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING! WE CAN GET POP A NURSE AND SHE CAN GIVE HIM A DOSE OF THE SAME MEDICINE!
OH, NO!
MY NAME IS MORBID JUNEBANK! I'M YOUR NEW NURSE! NOW, IF YOU'LL JUST ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS, ARE YOU ALLERGIC?
NO! I'M POP GROANS! AL LERGIC LIVES NEXT DOOR!
WERE YOU EVER INNOCULATED?
NOPE! NEVER TOUCH THE STUFF!
I THINK YOU HAVE ACUTE APPENDICITIS!
YOURS AIN'T SO HARD ON THE EYES, EITHER, HONEY!
3 NEW WAYS IN PROCESS SERVING
I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO OPERATE!
DON'T WORRY! I'M A SMOOTH OPERATOR!
PLEASE, MR. GROANS! I APPEAL TO YOU AS A MAN...
I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG! YOU SURE DON'T APPEAL TO ME AS A WOMAN!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MORBID? I THOUGHT WE WERE GETTING MARRIED.
SO DID I, TILL I GOT A LOOK AT YOUR BANK STATEMENT! MONEY CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS, THEY SAY...BUT IN YOUR CASE, THERE ISN'T EVEN ENOUGH FOR A DOWN PAYMENT! 'BYE...
WILKIE BUTTON FOUND IN ARS WRITE, FOUNDER OF ETIQUETTE SCHOOL FOR CHEFS
Medical Journal INSIDE INFORMATION ON OPERATIONS
3

WELL, GIRLS? HOW'D I DO?
SWELL, POP! THAT MAKES TWENTY-NINE HEARTBREAKING ROMANCES... AND THIS STRIP ISN'T EVEN TWO YEARS OLD YET!
AS LONG AS YOU'RE COUNTING, JOLIE, HOW ABOUT THE TIME THAT GRASS WIDOW WOULDN'T MARRY ME BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO BE A LAWN?
HOW ABOUT THE TIME THE BOOT-BLACK TOOK A SHINE TO ME?
SEE HOW IT IS, FOLKS? WHILE THERE'S ALL KINDS ADVENTURES AND ACTION AND SHOOTING AND FIGHTING IN ALL THE OTHER STRIPS AROUND US, WE JUST PLOD ALONG WITH THIS LOVE MUSH! POP TAKES CARE OF THE OLDER READERS WITH HIS FRUSTRATED ROMANCES. I TAKE CARE OF THE MIDDLE AGED ONES WITH MY UNHAPPY EXPERIENCES, AND LITTLE EVA TAKES CARE OF UNCLE TOM'S CABIN!
YEAH? WELL I'D LIKE TO TAKE CARE OF MY OWN CABIN INSTEAD OF THIS ONE! OH, TO BE KEEPING HOUSE FOR SOME GUY... TO HEAR THE PITTER-PATTER OF TINY FEET ON THE KITCHEN LINOLEUM...
YOU MEAN CHILDREN?
NO! MICE!
PLOTTING CHART AND LOCATIONS OF ELIGIBLE MALE
LOOK, EVA! JUST GET THIS THROUGH YOUR COLORLESS HEAD! MARRIAGE FOR US IS OUT! WE JUST KEEP ON HAVING UNREQUITED ROMANCES! THAT'S THE FORMULA! LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE NEVER GROWS UP! MAGGIE AND JIGGS NEVER STOP FIGHTING! AND WE NEVER GET MARRIED! LET'S FACE IT! THIS IS THE FARBLUNJITA PLOT!
PUMPING
NOW LET'S SEE... ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPT, IT'S YOUR TURN TO FALL IN LOVE AGAIN, EVA, GOT ANY IDEAS?
HOW ABOUT ME FALLING IN LOVE WITH A FIGHT PROMOTER? THEN HE CAN GIVE ME THE GATE!
NO! I DON'T THINK SO! IT LACKS PUNCH!
HOW ABOUT ME FALLING IN LOVE WITH AN OLYMPIC GAMES STAR? I COULD CARRY THE TORCH FOR HIM!
HEY! THAT'S A HOT ONE!
I GOT IT! I FALL IN LOVE WITH A CIRCUS ACROBAT AND HE DOESN'T EVEN GIVE ME A TUMBLE!
...OR A BASEBALL PLAYER... AND I CAN'T GET TO FIRST BASE! OR...
Coco Cooler
4

I HAVE A SUGGESTION, GIRLS! HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF LONELY HEARTS CLUBS?
HEARD OF THEM?
WE INVENTED THEM!
THE AURORA BOY'S HAVE A SUCAUCUS HERE TONIGHT
OH! WELL, I JUST FIGURED THERE WOULD BE A WONDERFUL CHANCE TO HAVE SOME VERY UNHAPPY EXPERIENCES!
WE TRIED IT, POP! JOLIE GOT A PROPOSAL FROM A GUY WHO CLAIMED TO BE HANDSOME... INTELLIGENT... AND A SUCCESSFUL TEXAS OIL MAN! IT WAS AWFUL!
HOW TO MARRY A MILLIONAIRE
I GET IT! HE TURNED OUT TO BE UGLY... STUPID... AND GAS STATION ATTENDANT IN DALLAS, EH?
NO! THAT'S WHAT WAS SO AWFUL! HE TURNED OUT TO BE HANDSOME... INTELLIGENT... AND A VERY WEALTHY TEXAS OIL MAN. JOLIE HAD NO EXCUSE NOT TO MARRY HIM!
BATTER ROCKET PAN CAKE
WHAT HAPPENED?
WE DON'T KNOW! THE LAST WE HEARD, HE WAS ON HIS WAY NORTH!
'SCUSE ME, FOLKS! THIS H'YAR THE HOME OF JOLIET GOOANS, LONESOME L'IL FILLY AN' LOVELORN CHICK?
GOOD LORD! IT'S HIM! WHAT'LL YOU DO, JOLIE? HE'S HERE!
JOLIE, BABY! I CUM T' MARRY UP WITH YO AN' TAKE YOU BACK TO TEXAS!
HOLD ON, BUSTER! THAT'S NOT JOLIE! THAT'S MY DAUGHTER EVA!
YOU KEEP OUT OF THIS, POP! HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!
EVA! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
SORRY, JOLIE! YOU CAN END UP AN OLD MAID IF YOU WANT TO! BUT NOT ME! LAST TIME IRVING, HERE, WROTE YOU, I INTERCEPTED HIS LETTER... AND SENT HIM MY PICTURE... AND SIGNED YOUR NAME! HE'S IN LOVE WITH ME! C'MON, IRVING! LET'S GET MARRIED!
DIRECT TO DALLAS
SHUCKS, MISS... WHOEVER YOU ARE! I CAIN'T MARRY UP WIF YO! ON YO PICTURE, I THOUGHT YO WUZ A BLONDE! NOW THET I SEES YO IN THE FLESH, I KNOWS YO IS TOO OLD FO ME! WHA, YO HAIR IS ALL GREY! 'BYE!
IRVING! NO! COME BACK!

HEH, HEH! GREY HAIR! DID YOU EVER...?
LET'S SEE! THAT MAKES THIRTY... OR IS IT THIRTY-ONE?
WELL...THAT'S THE LAST STRAW...
EVA! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THAT AXE?
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I'M GOING TO DO! I'M GETTING OUT OF THIS MISERABLE STRIP. I'M GOING TO FIND ACTION...ADVENTURE ...EXCITEMENT! I'M SICK OF THIS BORING SLOPPY SENTIMENTAL MUSH! SICK OF IT, YOU HEAR?
SICK! SICK! SICK! SICK!
FORGIVE HER FOLKS SHE'S MY SISTER-SHE'S NOT ALL THERE!
SHE'S GONE!
OOOPS!
ZIP
SHE FELL THROUGH TO THE NEXT STRIP!
SH-H-HH! LISTEN!
RIP SCURVY
By Ray Alexmond
I SAY, MR. SCURVY! THAT USUALLY NICE QUIET STRIP OVERHEAD IS CERTAINLY GETTING VIOLENT, ISN'T IT?
DON'T BOTHER ME WITH TRIFLES, DESMUND! I'M IN NEED OF A NEW CASE. ANY MOMENT, A GORGEOUS GAL IS GOING TO WALK THROUGH THAT...
...WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW! AND HERE SHE IS!
SEE DESMUND? ALWAYS, IN THE NICK OF TIME, A PLATINUM BLONDE SHOWS UP IN STRIPS LIKE MINE!
DID YOU SAY PLATINUM BLONDE? WHY YOU GREAT BIG HANDSOME DOLL, YOU! BY THE WAY, YOU MARRIED? OH, I'M GOING TO ENJOY THIS! GOOD-BYE TO THAT MISERY UPSTAIRS! MY NAME'S EVA... WHAT'S YOURS? MMMM..
THE END

# THE ENTERTAINMENT BOX

The popular song business changes its focus and accent more often and more sharply than any other million-dollar industry in the land.

Every year or so, its complexion changes. And the changes are often drastic. At one time, songwriters would sing their own songs in five and dime stores. Then song-pluggers took over. Then they "romanced" the artists: persuaded them to sing the songs by developing friendships, doing favors, and so forth.

When radio became the hit-maker, Bing Crosby, Rudy Vallee and Russ Columbo were the big song plugs (performances) that every contact-man (songplugger) worked for.

Then bands became popular, and the trick was to get Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller, Sammy Kaye and Guy Lombardo to give the tune a lot of play.

Today the disk jockey is the kingpin. And phonograph records rather than live performances are what make a song a hit.

Songs are no longer started on their way to hitdom by way of New York. Any small city can start the wave: if the disk jockey gives a new record lots of plays and the townspeople begin to buy records and copies of the sheet music.

New York's Tin Pan Alley has adjusted to this now. But ten years ago you couldn't have convinced a music publisher or his contactmen that a song could become a big hit away from New York City without New York even knowing about it.

Nevertheless, the biggest-selling record of the past fifteen years sold more than a million and a half copies of the sheet music before the music business in New York even knew it existed. And even then, the song never became a hit in New York.

It was a folk song. It was written by an unemployed factory worker who had to borrow the six dollars to pay for the record. (He made more than $70,000 on the song.)

It was recorded by Elton Britt on the Bluebird label. And it should have, but didn't, awaken the music business professionals to the realization that New York and Chicago don't make all the hits.

Its title: "There's A Star Spangled Banner Waving Somewhere." And it is still selling.

**MOVIES DEPT.:** THEY GOT A FORMULA IN HOLLYWOOD THESE DAYS WHICH GUARANTEES A SUCCESSFUL PICTURE. THEY USE FILM! BUT, IN ALL CRAZY WAYS! YEP, THE MOVIE MOGULS HAVE DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF BIG BOX OFFICE FIGURES. THEY HIRE TALL GIRLS! TO SELL TICKETS TO WIDE PICTURES! THAT'S THE SUCCESS-FORMULA THESE DAYS. WIDE-WIDE PICTURES. THE WIDER THEY ARE, THE MORE SUCCESSFUL! TAKE, F'RINSTANCE, A RECENT WIDE-SCREEN EPIC TO COME OUT OF HOLLYWOOD...

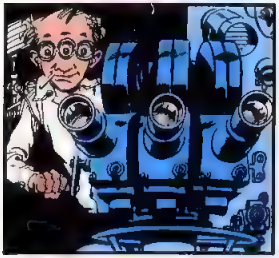
# 'S a Tragic Air Command

STARRING
Jimmy Stewheart
and
June Alleycan

PHOTOGRAPHED IN
VASTAVISION

WITH
Abe E. Thirty-Six
and
Lotta Bea Forty-Sevens

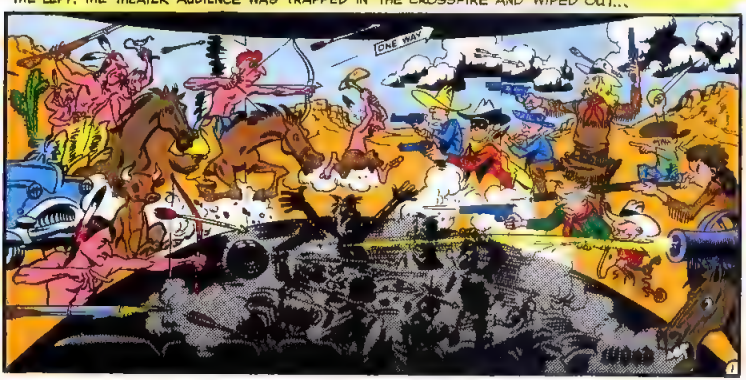
INCIDENTALLY, THIS WHOLE CRAZY WIDE-SCREEN MESS WAS BEGUN BY A NOVEL PROCESS CALLED CINERAMAMA. CINERAMAMA USES THREE CAMERAS. THE MIDDLE ONE POINTS STRAIGHT AHEAD AND THE OUTSIDE ONES POINT INWARD... SO THAT THE THREE CAMERAS ARE TAKING THREE SEPARATE SECTIONS OF THE SAME SCENE...



THESE SEPARATE SECTIONS ARE PHOTOGRAPHED ONTO THREE SEPARATE 35MM FILMS..

.. AND PROJECTED ONTO A HUGE CURVED SCREEN BY THREE SEPARATE PROJECTORS, SO AS TO CREATE ONE WIDE PICTURE, STARTLING IN ITS DEPTH AND REALISM...

THE FIRST PUBLIC SHOWING OF CINERAMAMA WAS A DISMAL FAILURE. THEY'D MADE "A COWBOY-AND-INDIAN" EPIC. THE PICTURE OPENED WITH AN AMBUSH SCENE... WITH COWBOYS ON THE RIGHT AND INDIANS ON THE LEFT. THE THEATER AUDIENCE WAS TRAPPED IN THE CROSSFIRE AND WIPED OUT...

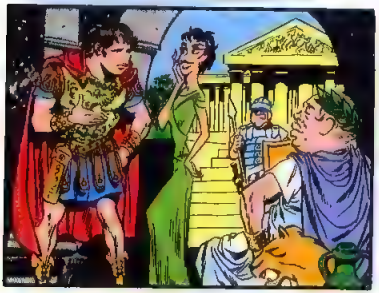


THE NEXT PROCESS TO COME ALONG WAS CALLED CINEMASCOOP. THIS PROCESS ELIMINATES THE THREE CAMERAS AND STILL GETS THE WIDE-SCREEN EFFECT. AN ORDINARY CAMERA IS EQUIPPED WITH A SPECIAL TYPE LENS WHICH TAKES A WIDE AREA...

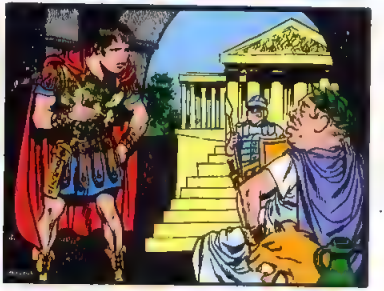
...AND CONDENSES IT DOWN ONTO AN ORDINARY 35 MM FRAME. EVERYTHING IS SQUASHED. PEOPLE LOOK LIKE TOOTHPICKS.

THE CINEMASCOOP PROJECTOR IS EQUIPPED WITH THE SAME TYPE LENS WHICH SPREADS THE PICTURE OUT AGAIN ON A VERY WIDE SCREEN...

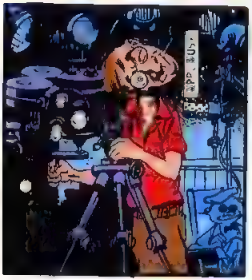
THE FIRST CINEMASCOOP PICTURE WAS A DISMAL FAILURE. ITS FEMALE STAR... UNFORTUNATELY... WAS SKINNY AS A TOOTHPICK TO BEGIN WITH...



WHEN SHE WAS SQUASHED DOWN ONTO THAT SINGLE 35 MM FRAME, THEY FOUND SHE DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY WHEN THE PICTURE WAS PROJECTED...

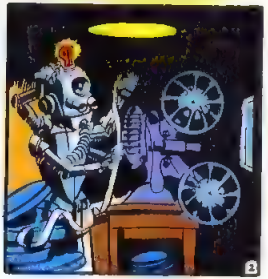


VASTA VISION IS THE LATEST OF THESE WIDE SCREEN PROCESSES. A CLEVER CAMERAMAN GOT THE IDEA TO TURN HIS CAMERA SIDEWAYS AND TAKE THE PICTURE WITH A DOUBLE FRAME-OPENING..

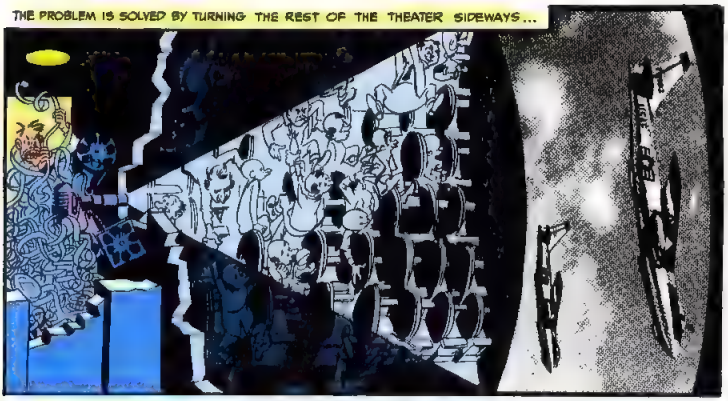


...SO THAT THE PICTURE FALLS SIDEWAYS ACROSS TWO ORDINARY 35 MM FRAMES...

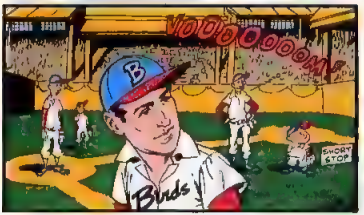
HOWEVER, A PROBLEM ARISES IN PROJECTING THIS NEW TYPE PICTURE SINCE PROJECTORS ARE BOLTED TO THE PROJECTION-ROOM FLOOR. THE FILM WAS TO BE RUN REGULARLY... UP AND DOWN...



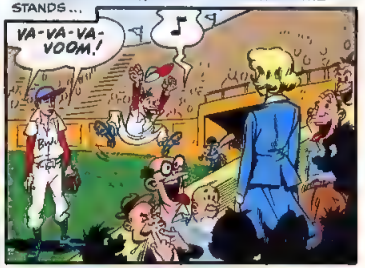
THE PROBLEM IS SOLVED BY TURNING THE REST OF THE THEATER SIDEWAYS...

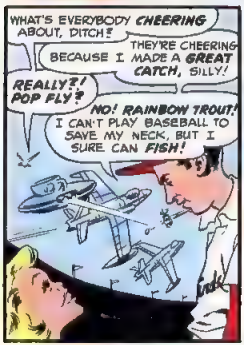


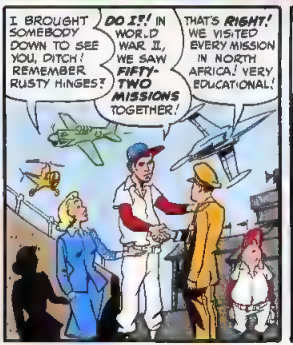
'S A TRAGIC AIR COMMAND' BEGINS ON A BASEBALL TRAINING FIELD IN FLORIDA. MELVIN 'DITCH' DIGGER (PLAYED BY JIMMY STEWHEART) IS THE STAR THIRD BASEMAN FOR THE ST. LOUIS BLUES. DURING A PRACTICE GAME, THE FIELD SUDDENLY REVERBERATES A LOW ROAR... HE TURNS TO LOOK UP. HE THINKS IT'S A B-36...




ACTUALLY, IT'S JUST THE WOLVES IN THE BLEACHERS HOWLING, BECAUSE SILLY DIGGER, HIS WIFE (PLAYED BY JUNE ALLEYCAN), HAS JUST ENTERED THE STANDS...





WHAT'S EVERYBODY CHEERING ABOUT, DITCH?
THEY'RE CHEERING BECAUSE I MADE A GREAT CATCH, SILLY!
REALLY?! POP FLY?
NO! RAINBOW TROUT!
I CAN'T PLAY BASEBALL TO SAVE MY NECK, BUT I SURE CAN FISH!

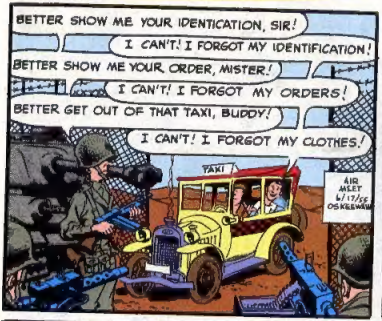

I BROUGHT SOMEBODY DOWN TO SEE YOU, DITCH! REMEMBER RUSTY HINGES?
DO IT!. IN WORLD WAR II, WE SAW FIFTY-TWO MISSIONS TOGETHER!
THAT'S RIGHT! WE VISITED EVERY MISSION IN NORTH AFRICA! VERY EDUCATIONAL!

I'M AFRAID I'VE GOT SOME BAD NEWS FOR YOU, DITCH! YOU'RE WANTED FOR SAC!
WHICH ONE?! FIRST, SECOND OR THIRD? I PLAY THIRD SACK BEST!
AIR MEET
AIR MEET TODAY AT HOOPER BROKE
AIR MEET TOMMORROW

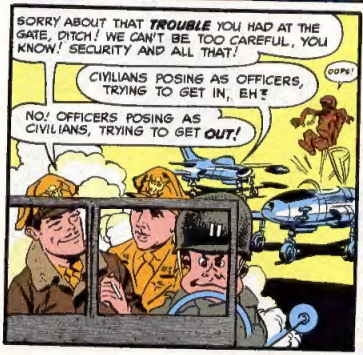
I MEAN YOU'RE IN THE AIR FORCE AGAIN, DITCH! SHALL I TELL YOUR WIFE FOR YOU?
NO! I'LL TELL HER TONIGHT WHEN WE GET HOME! SHE HATES TO FAINT IN PUBLIC!
AIR MEAT
WHY DON'T YOU?
B
Bilads

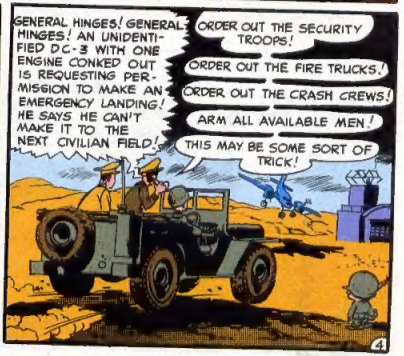
THEN YOU DON'T CARE THAT WE HAVE TO GIVE UP ALL THIS, SILLY?
OH, DITCH! WHAT DO YOU THINK IS IMPORTANT TO ME? YOUR $70,000 A YEAR BASEBALL CONTRACT?! OH, NO, DARLING! THIS $45,000 HOUSE?! NO, DEAR! YOU!? NO SIR, KID! WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS I GET $15,000 A WEEK MAKING PICTURES LIKE THIS ONE?

AND SO, BITTER AND DISILLUSIONED, DITCH LEAVES HIS FABULOUS CAREER BEHIND HIM TO RE-ENTER THE AIR FORCE...

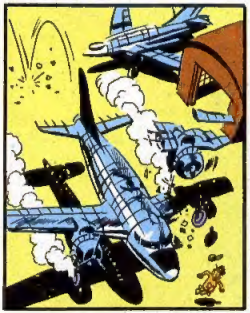

BETTER SHOW ME YOUR IDENTICATION, SIR!
I CAN'T! I FORGOT MY IDENTIFICATION!
BETTER SHOW ME YOUR ORDER, MISTER!
I CAN'T! I FORGOT MY ORDERS!
BETTER GET OUT OF THAT TAXI, BUDDY!
I CAN'T! I FORGOT MY CLOTHES!
TAXI
AIR MEET
OSKEGWU

GENERAL HINGES! THIS MAN HERE CLAIMS HE'S COLONEL MELVIN DIGGER, BUT HE'S GOT NO IDENTIFICATION... NO ORDERS... NO CLOTHES!
RUSTY! RUSTY! IT'S ME! DITCH!
SAME OLD RUSTY!
IT'S OKAY, MAJOR! THIS MAN SPENT WORLD WAR II IN MY OUTFIT! HE NEVER DID OWN ONE OF HIS OWN!
I'LL VOUCH FOR HIM!
TAXI


SORRY ABOUT THAT TROUBLE YOU HAD AT THE GATE, DITCH! WE CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL, YOU KNOW! SECURITY AND ALL THAT!
CIVILIANS POSING AS OFFICERS, TRYING TO GET IN, EH?
OOPS!
NO! OFFICERS POSING AS CIVILIANS, TRYING TO GET OUT!


GENERAL HINGES! GENERAL HINGES! AN UNIDENTIFIED DC-3 WITH ONE ENGINE CONKED OUT IS REQUESTING PERMISSION TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING! HE SAYS HE CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE NEXT CIVILIAN FIELD!
ORDER OUT THE SECURITY TROOPS!
ORDER OUT THE FIRE TRUCKS!
ORDER OUT THE CRASH CREWS!
ARM ALL AVAILABLE MEN!
THIS MAY BE SOME SORT OF TRICK!

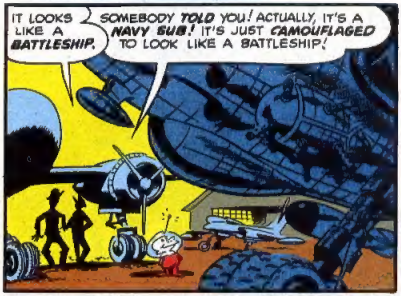
TENSION MOUNTS AS THE CRIPPLED UNIDENTIFIED DC-3 APPROACHES THE SAC BASE... DROPS... TOUCHES DOWN ...



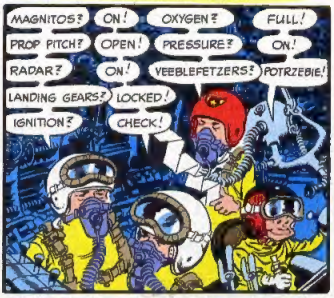
...TAXIS TO THE APRON... AND OPENS ITS DOORS. SUDDENLY, MEN POUR OUT...

THANK GOODNESS! I THOUGHT FOR A MINUTE IT MIGHT BE GENERAL FALCON PULLING ONE OF HIS SECURITY DRILLS!
HE'S ALWAYS TRYING TO TRICK US LIKE THAT!
POW!
POW!
KA-PWEENG!

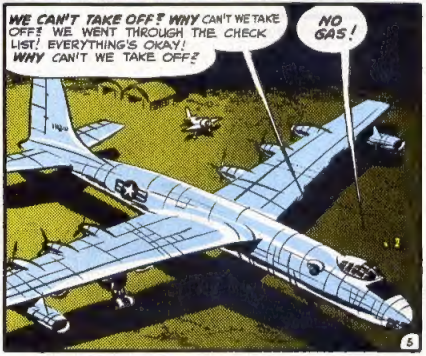
AFTER A RIGOROUS PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, DITCH'S BIG-DAY ARRIVES. HE'S TO BE GIVEN HIS FIRST RIDE IN THE FABULOUS B-36...




SEATED BEHIND THE PILOT AND CO-PILOT... IN THE FLIGHT ENGINEER'S LAP... DITCH LISTENS TO THE CAREFUL PRE-FLIGHT CHECK...

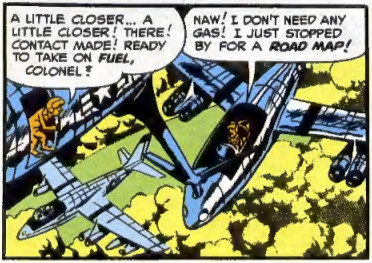



FOR ALMOST TWO HOURS, THE TWO THOUSAND ODD ITEMS ARE READ FROM THE CHECK LIST. FINALLY...



FINALLY, THE HUGE AERODYNAMIC MONSTER TAKES TO THE SKY. THE PILOT TURNS TO DITCH...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE THE CONTROLS, COLONEL?
WOULD I!?
WITH A BLINDING FLASH AND A THUNDEROUS ROAR, THE GIGANTIC SHIP CRASHES INTO A NORTHERN ICE FIELD...
WELL, YOU TOLD ME TO TAKE THE CONTROLS!
YEAH, BUT NOT OUT OF THEIR SOCKETS!
AFTER THREE DAYS IN THE FROZEN WASTES OF GREENLAND, THE B-36 CREW AND DITCH ARE FINALLY RESCUED. ON THE WAY HOME THEY STOP AT A SECRET FIELD...
STEP IN HERE, DITCH! I WANT TO SHOW YOU OUR LATEST SECRET EXPERIMENTAL WEAPON.
WHY YOU SMILIN' MAC?
I'M NOT SMILIN' JACK!
AIR MEET! 1-3-5-7
THE GENERAL SLIDES BACK THE HUGE HANGAR DOORS AND STEPS INSIDE...
WELL? WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?
THINK OF WHAT?! THE PLACE IS EMPTY! WHERE'S THE SECRET WEAPON?
YOU'RE IN IT! SECRET WEAPON BEING HUGE FLYING HANGAR... WITH RETRACTABLE WING-WALLS! CLEVER, EH?
WHAT A BOMB-LOAD THIS THING COULD CARRY!
POW!
(REAL AIR MEET)
WELL, DITCH! HERE WE ARE OVER OUR HOME BASE! LOOK AT THE WELCOME THE BOYS HAVE WHIPPED UP FOR YOU!
ISN'T THAT SWEET OF THEM... RE-ARRANGING THE RUNWAYS TO LOOK LIKE A BASEBALL DIAMOND!
6

IN THE TENSE FINAL MOMENTS OF THE PICTURE, WITH AN INJURED SHOULDER HE'S KEPT SECRET FROM THE FLIGHT SURGEONS (HE'S SEEN "MEDIC" ON T.V. AND HE'S NOBODY'S FOOL!), DITCH PARTAKES IN A MASS B-47 FLIGHT TO JAPAN. OVER THE ROCKIES, HIS JET BOMBER MAKES RENDEZVOUS WITH AN ARMY STRATOCRUISER... A FLYING GAS STATION...


A LITTLE CLOSER... A LITTLE CLOSER! THERE! CONTACT MADE! READY TO TAKE ON FUEL, COLONEL?
NAW! I DON'T NEED ANY GAS! I JUST STOPPED BY FOR A ROAD MAP!

WITH HIS FUEL SUPPLY REPLENISHED, DITCH STARTS ON THE LONG PERILOUS TRANS-PACIFIC HOP. AT GUAM, BAD WEATHER HAS SET IN, MAKING A LANDING IMPOSSIBLE. DITCH RECEIVES THE BAD NEWS FROM THE GUAM CONTROL TOWER...

TURNING TO TINIAN AIR BASE AS A LAST RESORT, DITCH LEARNS THAT IT, TOO, IS CLOSED DOWN...

BECAUSE HIS ARM HAS SUDDENLY GONE LIMP, DITCH CALLS UPON HIS CO-PILOT TO COOPERATE WITH HIM...

FINALLY, IN A POIGNANT LAST SCENE, DITCH IS UNITED WITH HIS WIFE...

...AND THE PICTURE ENDS ON THIS TOUCHING NOTE...

BECAUSE OF THAT BAD SHOULDER, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO LET YOU OUT OF THE AIR FORCE, DITCH! AND SINCE YOU CAN'T PLAY BALL ANY MORE BECAUSE OF IT, I'M WONDERING WHAT YOU WILL DO FOR A LIVING. ANY PLANS?
YES! I'M WORKING ON A WIDE-SCREEN PROCESS TO SELL TO ESKIMOS! THE SCREEN IS CURVED IN A BIG CIRCLE. IT'S FOR LARGE IGLOOS!
THE END